

## STANDARD'S SUNDAY CLUB

Continued From Page Nine.

nouncement, particularly from the ladies, showed its popularity and caused the colonel to blush like a maiden. The captain stated that he saw no objection, but to be fair he would suggest that counsel for the plaintiff be called. The captain, therefore, he would take the liberty of appointing William Coleman as representative of the plaintiff, to which Coleman uselessly demurred.

The plaintiff was directed to tell his story, which he did aided by his counsel. He stated that his teamster, who was a relative of his, had sickened of mountain fever, and at Fort Laramie had died; that it was necessary to engage another. The young man whom he employed to take the place, and who proved to be the co-responder, appeared to give so much attention to his wife that he became suspicious, and he concluded that everything was not just as it should be. He said that his wife exhibited too much regard for the teamster's welfare; that she was willing to cook and work and wash for him, while for her husband she would do nothing; and that at times she would not speak to him. In answer to his remonstrances she simply declared she would do as she pleased; that she did not love him; and that she would leave him just as soon as they reached a settlement where she could have the protection of the law. He said that he had discharged the teamster, but that he had been harbored by others in the train; also that the young man had hung around his wife and had appointed trysts; that he had finally found them in a compromising position, and that he had told his captain either he or the other party would have to leave the train, as he could and would not endure the matter longer.

Colonel Word had interrupted his examination by frequent objections, which were all overruled by the captain, but which enabled the colonel to show the disparity of ages of the plaintiff and defendant, to point out to the jury the improbability of his story and to brand the plaintiff as a sour, jealous, tyrannical old imbecile, who was one of those creatures so near approaching a perversity that our laws were wrong in permitting such a wretch to marry. A few witnesses were further introduced by Mr. Coleman, corroborating some minor points in the plaintiff's testimony, and the hearing for the defense began.

The lady testified that she had married the plaintiff in Indiana, much against her will; that she had never loved him and never could; that his conduct toward her had been that of a jealous, impatient spy; that do what she could, she could never satisfy him; that she had been the subject of his brutal treatment to such a degree and it had been perpetrated in such a manner, that she declined to describe it; that the young man in question had seen a great deal of her life in the last few weeks and had sympathized with her, but had been guilty of no improprieties; that the plaintiff's story was untrue in its inferences and statements, except for the one fact that she had told him she would leave him at the first opportunity that she could properly do so; that since he had brought about this scandal she had determined to do so now. A number of the ladies of her company testified to her modesty and ladylike deportment. Her captain was called. He gave his observations of both and asked the jury to take such steps as would settle the affair so that the good character of the company might be preserved. Colonel Word and Mr. Coleman made their best pleas, and the case was in the hands of the court and jury.

The captain asked both parties to present themselves before him. He asked the plaintiff if he thought he could treat his wife fairly and as a husband ought to, and if he could freely forgive her the cause of their domestic discord was expelled from the train and allowed no further intercourse with his wife. He promptly answered in the affirmative. He asked the lady if, in view of what she had heard her husband say, she wanted her case to go to the jury. She, with great spirit, answered that she did! The captain stated to the jury that they were in possession of all the facts. He said the stories were as near true as could be expected from people so biased toward each other as were plaintiff and defendant. He added that the members of the jury were expected to take such action as would meet the approval of the assembled people, and ordered them to retire to consider the evidence.

The trial had occupied three hours and was of such interest that no one had noticed the flight of time. So, when it was discovered that the noon hour had passed, the captain announced that the jury would have until 3 o'clock p. m. to deliver their verdict. During the recess the jury, a little out of the ordinary expectation, had called Colonel Word into consultation, whereat the plaintiff became very indignant and declared that he was being unfairly treated. The captain assured him that the jury was properly selected, was composed of fair men, could not be influenced, and that the matter was now in its hands. Promptly at 3 p. m. the jury had taken their positions on the green sward, and the captains, lawyers and parties in position, the captain called for the verdict. It was handed to me and I noticed at once it was in the gallant colonel's hand-writing. It was as follows, to-wit:

United States of America, Indian Country, Deer Creek, North Platte River:

We, the jury in the case of the plaintiff vs. ———, find that the defendant has conducted herself under very trying circumstances as a lady, a good wife and a virtuous woman; that she has been grossly and outrageously wronged by the plaintiff. Also we further find that the plaintiff is incapable of understanding and appreciating the sanctity of his plighted vows and that there is no happiness in store for such a marriage.

Therefore, in behalf of good morals and the good order of the community here assembled, the bonds of matrimony heretofore existing between plaintiff and defendant are hereby dissolved, and the parties thereto are forever divorced.

The verdict was received with such a mighty shout from the men and enthusiasm from the women assembled, that the captain announced it was un-

necessary to submit the verdict for their approval. The lady seemed overwhelmed by her good luck and, in a fainting condition, was receiving reassuring words from her distinguished counsel. The captain asked for order, and called before him the lady and the young man involved in the case, telling him that, while he might be innocent enough, he doubted not he was, in a measure, the source of the difficulties just adjudicated, and he thought it proper, in view of the testimony of witnesses, to ask him if his feelings toward the late defendant were such that he could make her an honorable proposition of marriage. He answered that nothing would make him so happy. "Then do it," said the captain. It was done and the swain was accepted. The ceremony was immediately pronounced by the captain in a manner that would have done credit to a bishop. The certificate was prepared by the colonel, signed by the parties, attested by the six train captains.

The captain said, before discharging the jury, he would direct them to repair to the wagon of the late plaintiff and divide the effects of the parties in such a manner as the articles and property seemed to suggest. This done, the afternoon and evening were given over to congratulations and merriment. The bride and groom are now respected citizens of Montana, with a grown son of some prominence.

George W. Irvin II.  
Butte, Sept. 12, 1895.

## BUTTE'S DEFALCATIONS.

Without assuming that the ex-officials of Butte, for whom warrants of arrest on the charge of forgery were issued a few days ago, are guilty, a matter which has not yet been proven, it is not untimely to inquire what protection the city of Butte has ever had, or now has, against just such a scheme of robbery as is indicated by the charges that have been made. Whether the investigation shall determine that there has been a system of issuing bogus warrants, or that the accusations are not well founded, in either event, it is timely to inquire what there has been to prevent a collusion of the city clerk, the treasurer, the mayor, the chief of police and the street commissioners, or even a less number of officials, with, perhaps, the assistance of a warrant scalper or two, in the wholesale robbery of the public treasury? Suppose the late city treasurer had not committed suicide, that he had retired from office with his accounts all straight and with the amount of cash in the sinking fund that should have been there, is it likely that in that event the people of Butte would ever have known that bogus warrants were issued from the city clerk's office, if any such were issued? Without the suicide and defalcation of Simon Jacobs, there would have been no investigation, and, with no investigation, it seems improbable that a suspicion would ever have attached to the other officials of the Dugan administration, unless the loss to the city from the issuing of the alleged bogus warrants has been much greater than is now believed. The investigation of the accounts of Simon Jacobs aroused the suspicion that there was irregularity in the accounts of other municipal officers. It is unlikely that any irregularity would have been suspected in the second case but for the thorough investigation which was inaugurated on account of the treasurer's deficit. That being the case, what assurance have the people of Butte that bogus warrants have not been issued in former administrations in precisely the same manner that, it is claimed, they were issued under the Dugan administration? Has there been any investigation to show that the city may not have been robbed systematically under the Mantle, Mueller, Vallon or Kenyon, or other administrations? Has the city any assurance, except its confidence in the honesty of former employees, that the public funds have not been robbed repeatedly since the city was incorporated? Is there any other ground to hope that it will not be robbed in the future?

When H. L. Frank was mayor of Butte a decade or so ago, H. B. Smith, the city clerk, committed suicide. Mr. Frank discovered one day that the clerk had fraudulently endorsed and cashed warrants issued to other persons to the amount of \$2,100. He refused to accept any excuses or promises from Mr. Smith, but demanded that he at once bring to him the missing sum. The city clerk went to his room and immediately put a bullet through his head.

Under a succeeding administration, George Randolph was city clerk. It never came to public notice that his accounts were wrong, although a rigid examination might have revealed that such was the case. On leaving the municipal office he became the book-keeper for Lee W. Foster. Like Smith, and like many other officials of Butte and of Silver Bow county in times past, he gambled. His accounts, as book-keeper were one day found to be wrong and he, too, committed suicide.

To enumerate all the cases where suspicion has rested on officers of this county and city would be imprudent, for in some cases there was no proof and in other cases the records of the officials were whitewashed. In the early days of Butte's history money was plentiful, everybody was solely intent on getting rich, and very little attention was paid to the conduct of municipal affairs. Whether the people of Butte were robbed of much or little in those days will never be known. Two citizens of Butte who were mayors some years ago have expressed to me their belief that the city has not lost as much through defalcations and pilfering of officials as it has through the carelessness or connivance of finance committees in auditing bills. Both cheerfully admitted of cases during their own administrations where dishonest bills had been audited and paid, and both very naturally expressed the opinion that in other administrations the error in this respect was much greater than in their own.

It has long been a proverb in Butte that there never was a worse building put up for more money than when the court house of Silver Bow county was erected. Besides the enormous amount which it cost at the start, there has not been a year since it was occupied that there has not been a big bill for repairs and improvements for the tax-

payors to pay. The defalcation of Assistant County Treasurer Scott, a few years ago, was made good by the county treasurer, but there is a loud and unpleasant whisper to the effect that pilferings or irregularities of one or two other former officials have not been made good, and that there will be another official scandal to air before a great while.

Taking it altogether, the defalcations of officials in city and county that have been discovered, the bills audited which were excessive, the losses to the taxpayers by pilferings that were whitewashed, the losses to the taxpayers by contracts that were let to the highest instead of the lowest bidders, the salaries paid to men for whom offices were created as reward for political services, the shamefully outrageous cost of everyone of Butte's public buildings, city and county, the money squandered in the purchase of the "white elephant" fire apparatus, which was never used, and the purchase of supplies of all kinds more to reward political service than to benefit the city—take it all together, and it is doubtful if the taxpayers of many communities in the land have suffered more than have the taxpayers of Butte and Silver Bow county, considering the difference in population and basing the estimate on the loss to each individual taxpayer. It is no wonder that the people of Butte are discouraged.

To prevent robbery and misappropriation of the public funds Butte has had nothing to rely on except the honesty of the men it trusted and elected. That is all it has to rely on now. It is to be inferred from Butte's experience that it is unsafe solely to depend on the honesty of the men elected to office. Some officials in Butte have proven as trustworthy as any in the land. Others, considered just as trustworthy, have proven dishonest. How is it to be determined that a man is really honest or is only making believe in order to obtain office? I do not approve the opinion which has been expressed that when officers, supposed to be honest, turn out to be dishonest, the men, party or faction which elected them to office are blamable. When a man who wants to buy a seat in the United States senate, for example, succeeds in bribing certain members of the legislature, I do not consider that those who voted for these certain members of the legislature are to be censured. When the people of Butte elect a man to office it is always a gamble whether he will turn out as a faithful officer or a rogue, and there seems to be no means of loading the dice in favor of honest government. Honesty is too easily simulated. How is it possible to tell whether a man is really honest or is only pretending to be honest in order to get elected? If he is really and truly honest, how are the people to know that he will stay so?

Honesty, being apparently a rare article among those who succeed in getting elected to city and county offices, not to speak of those who succeed in getting elected to the legislature, it would seem that what is most needed is a good substitute for honesty. Yet it must be confessed that no satisfactory substitute for honesty has ever been found. Without honesty civil government would be at an end. A government can survive occasional instances of dishonesty, but there must be men of integrity sufficient to hold the rogues in check, or utter lack of confidence in government will result. There is nothing that can take the place of honesty. No system of checks for keeping track of public finances, however elaborate, has been devised which did not prove futile unless it had an honest man somewhere in the system. No system of checking has been invented which could prevent officials from plundering a public treasury if all the officials were rascals and stood together. Place one honest man among them, or let one rascal be left out of the combination, and the pilfering will come to light. There is no satisfactory substitute for honesty, and if Butte is to escape robbery in the future, honesty in public office is indispensable.

There being no satisfactory substitute for honesty, and honesty being absolutely necessary for good government, it is to be concluded that honesty must be made fashionable once more in Butte—it must be restored to popularity. The only way to make honesty popular is to make dishonesty unpopular. The only way to make dishonesty unpopular is to punish it on every occasion with a justice that is not tempered by mercy. The way of the transgressor is hard, but it is harder to prove it so. To stop transgression it is not sufficient to say that the way of the transgressor is hard—it should be made so. If honesty is the best policy, let's prove it. The only way to do that is to prove that dishonesty is a worse policy.

One of the most encouraging things to the people of Butte should be the fact that the defalcations have been discovered. A good many young men will remain honest in Butte just because the defalcations were found out. I believe the suicide of Simon Jacobs will prevent more young clerks and bookkeepers from becoming dishonest to their employers than all the sermons that will be preached in Butte this year. The trouble is that very few people are "sure their sin will find them out." If everybody believed that his sin would surely find him out, honesty would be popular and there would be no particular credit in it. But it is the general belief that sin finds a man out only about 40 per cent of the time. Moralizing on the increase in the number of inmates in the penitentiaries and jails is erroneous, for this does not indicate the crimes that were committed that were not found out, nor does it indicate the crimes that were committed, but were not punished.

The way to diminish crime is to punish it. The way to stop murder in Silver Bow county is to hang the murderers. The way to compel public officials to be honest is to punish them when they are dishonest. Simon Jacobs might be alive and respected in Butte to-day but for the whitewashing that has been done in some former investigations. No one will believe that honesty is the best policy when he sees dishonesty unpunished, condoned and rewarded.

It is not conducive to the preservation and development of honesty in Butte to let so many criminals off as long as free. Crime will flourish as

long as justice keeps one eye shut. If a man can commit murder with impunity, why can he not steal with impunity? Every jurymen who votes to acquit a murderer is an accessory to more murders. Every alderman who signs his name to a whitewashed report of an investigation into the conduct of an official encourages more officials to be dishonest.

Meanwhile, until Butte gets her other eye open, the city must change its plans—if I may be permitted to say so, it must assume that every city officer is dishonest; that will pay the taxpayers. If it has not been the custom with the mayor to know what a warrant is issued for before he signs it, that should be the custom hereafter. The theory I suggest, however harsh it sounds, is the one on which this state provided for the election of auditors. There is another way of putting it: Butte will escape plundering when its city council pays attention to its manifest duty by seeing to it that the accounts of the financial agents of the city are audited with decent frequency.

In making honesty the popular thing in Butte the stopping of gambling will be of very material assistance, for gambling has been at the bottom of the vast majority of the suicides and defalcations in official and private life since the first faro game was opened. It is not correct to divide all mankind into two classes—rogues and honest men. There is a very large third class, the members of which remain honest as long as the inducements, opportunities or temptations to become dishonest are not too great. The stopping of gambling removes one great temptation to dishonesty. In the millennium men will be honest even if it is not the best policy. It will not do to depend on finding many such men in this century, and in the meantime the only defense for a community is, first, to make it as difficult as possible to be dishonest, and, secondly, to make it exceedingly impolitic. Men who would scorn to be dishonest in private life will steal from the public if they get the chance. The diminishing of these chances to the lowest possible figure, the demonstration of the fact that the city intends to make itself respected and to punish promptly and severely every form of official misconduct and pilfering, whether it relate to cash, to letting contracts to the highest bidder or to using the municipal patronage chiefly as a reward for political service, and, most of all, the administration of justice in the courts of this community inexorably and unrelentingly, without favor and without prejudice, until criminals are made to tremble, and the way of the transgressor is really made hard—these things will give Butte honest government. The restoration of honesty will follow the restoration of justice.

W. W. Walsworth.  
Butte, Sept. 13, 1895.

## A RESIDENCE FOR \$2,000,000

Palatial Home Erected in New York for Railroad Magnate Huntington.

From the New York World.  
Collis P. Huntington owns a great residence on Nob Hill, San Francisco. It is called the Colton house, and cost Mr. Huntington \$500,000. He has a country place at Throg's neck, Westchester county, and his wife owns a big house at 66 Park avenue.

Nearly five years ago he began the construction of a \$2,000,000 palace at the corner of Fifty-seventh street and Fifth avenue. The average man would be completed in two years. It is not finished.

First there was trouble with the building department because of a bay window which extended too far into Fifth avenue. This quarrel was carried into the courts. There were strikes and other annoyances which destroyed all of Mr. Huntington's interest in the house.

It has been said that he offered to sell the place as it stood to each of the half dozen New Yorkers who are able to purchase such an expensive house, but there was no sale. It has also been said that Mr. Huntington has grown superstitious, believing that his death would occur soon after he began to live there. This rumor annoyed Mr. Huntington quite as much as the strikes, for it would not be laughed down as long as he did not occupy the house. Legends have been growing about the great granite pile, and it bid fair to become a haunted house.

But now decorators are at work and it has been announced that the orders of Mr. Huntington are positive that the house must be ready for occupancy by Nov. 1, at least. He declares that the costly pile is for sale to any one who will pay what it has actually cost him. It is Mr. Huntington who has been chiefly instrumental in persuading him to crowd down his aversion to the costly pile and prepare it for their residence. Mrs. Huntington is credited with social ambitions which were not realized to their full extent during the life of Ward McAllister, although her daughter is the Princess Hatzfeldt.

The palace was, in the days when it was being designed, Mr. Huntington's hobby. He knows almost as much about architecture as he does about railroads. His ideas dominated in every detail. Of one thing he was very proud. While on the opposite Cornelius Vanderbilt was building a French house, Mr. Huntington put only American work and material into his pile, and some of the finest American workmanship in existence is there.

One of the remarkable features is an immense marble plunge, which is in the basement and extends far out under the avenue. The grand staircase cost more than any other stairway in any American private house. It is of marble and onyx. On the Fifth avenue and Fifty-seventh street corner is the Louis XV grand salon. Next to that is what Mr. Huntington calls the room of all rooms in the mansion. It is a library and is partly lighted by the famous bay window on Fifth avenue. This is the second largest room.

The main hall is also the picture gallery, and Mr. Huntington has a fine collection of pictures, to which he will make several important additions from Europe. This hall extends upward two stories, and is partly finished in marble. The main dining room fronts on Fifty-seventh street.

Magnificent iron gates give entrance to the porte cochere. The driveway passes under the galleries connecting the great hall with the east room, which is the largest room in the house. Its decorations are being done by New York artists, and it will be one of the notable ballrooms in the city when completed. Its acoustics have been carefully considered, so that if Mr. Huntington desires to entertain a society with music, for which she is said to have an especial fondness, the east room will be ideal for that purpose.

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